NECP Milestones Applicable to State and Local Governments

Presented to the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission

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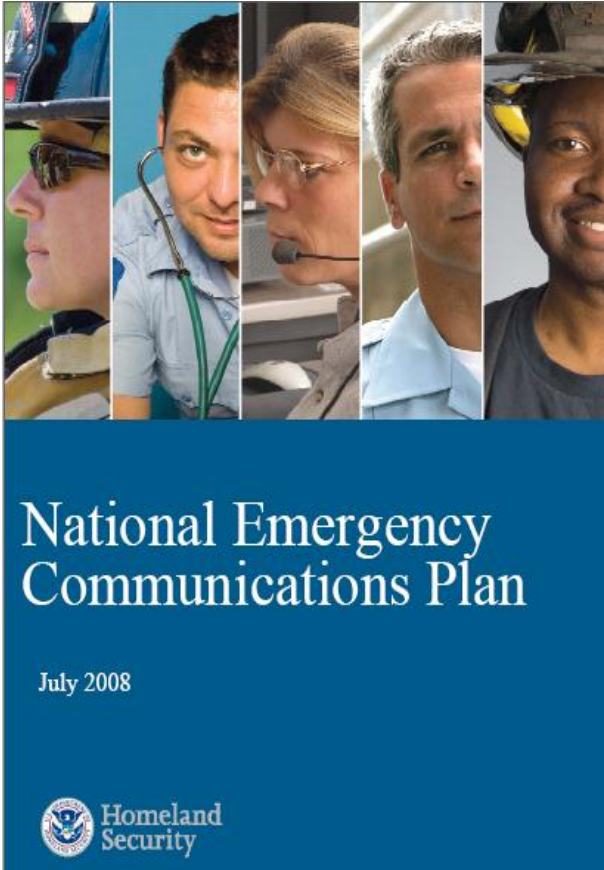Public Safety Interoperable Communications Office

Overview

- NECP Overview

- NECP Vision and Goals

- Review of Key Objectives

- Review of Progress Towards Meeting Relevant Initiatives and Milestones

- Summary of Arizona's Progress

- Moving Forward

NECP Overview

- The <u>National Emergency Communications Plan</u> (NECP) was released in 2008.

National Emergency Communications Plan

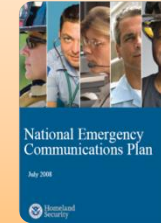July 2008

Homeland Security

- The Plan was developed in coordination with more than 150 representatives from major public safety organizations and the private sector.

- It was the first national strategic plan that addresses operability, interoperability and continuity of emergency communications.

- The plan established goals and deadlines for agency performance of response-level emergency communications at a minimum level.
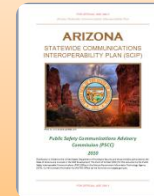
AZ's Plan for Interoperable Communications

National Emergency Communications Plan

Identifies key areas for improvements and establishes benchmarks to measure the ability of public safety agencies to demonstrate response-level emergency communications.

Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan (SCIP)

Strategic: Defines Arizona's strategy for improving interoperable communications.

Strategic Initiatives

PSIC Office Plan

Tactical: Describes how the PSIC Office operates to advance the SCIP and Interoperability.

NECP Vision

Emergency response personnel can communicate -

- As needed, on demand and as authorized

- At all levels of government

- Across all disciplines

To accomplish this vision the NECP identifies goals, objectives, initiatives and milestones that are relevant to States to improve emergency communications.

NECP Goals

- **Goal 1** - By 2010, 90 percent of all high risk urban areas designated within the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI) are able to demonstrate response level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies

- **Goal 2** - By 2011, 75 percent of non-UASI jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within one hour for routine events involving multiple jurisdictions and agencies

- **Goal 3** - By 2013, 75 percent of all jurisdictions are able to demonstrate response-level emergency communications within three hours, in the event of a significant incident as outlined in national planning scenarios.

NECP Objectives

- The majority of NECP objectives, initiatives and milestones apply to the Federal government, not to the States.

- Applicable Objectives:

  - **Objective 1:** Formal decision-making structures and clearly defined leadership roles coordinate emergency communications capabilities.

  - **Objective 3:** Emergency responders employ common planning and operational protocols to effectively use their resources and personnel.

  - **Objective 7:** The Nation has integrated preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities to communicate during significant events.

Formal decision-making structures and clearly defined leadership roles coordinate emergency communications capabilities.

OBJECTIVE 1

Objective 1

- Initiative 1.1: Facilitate the development of effective governance groups and designated emergency communications leadership roles.

  - Milestone 1.1.2: Within 12 months, all States and Territories should establish full-time statewide interoperability coordinators or equivalent positions. (p.12)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Establish a full-time statewide interoperability coordinator or equivalent position.	None	PSIC Office	2008	Complete

Objective 1, cont.

– Milestone 1.1.5: Within 12 months, SIECs (AZ SIEC = PSCC, SIEC and sub-committees) in all 56 States and Territories should incorporate the recommended membership as outlined in the SCIP Guidebook and should be established via legislation or executive order by an individual State's governor. (p.13)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Incorporate the recommended membership into the Statewide Interoperability Governing Body (SIGB).	None	PSIC Office PSCC	2004	Complete
Establish the SIGB via legislation or executive order.	None	PSIC Office PSCC	2004	Complete

Objective 1, cont.

- Initiative 1.3: Integrate strategic and tactical emergency communications planning efforts across all levels of government. Tactical and strategic coordination will eliminate unnecessary duplication of effort and maximize interagency synchronization, bringing together tactical response and strategic planning.

    - Milestone 1.3.2: Within 12 months, tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level. (p.14)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level.	Need to continue to formalize and manage plans and assets	Regional Partners PSIC Office	2013	In progress

Objective 1, cont.

- Relevant SCIP Initiatives:

  - 5.8.1.1 Expand & Implement Interoperable Communications Governance Model & Plan

  - 5.8.2.1 Establish a Policies, Standards, Procedures (PSP) Framework and implement PSPs, including SOPs, for statewide interoperable communication solutions.

  - 5.8.4.1 Develop & Implement a Training Plan to Address Interoperable Communications

  - 5.8.4.2 Develop & Implement a Strategy for Exercises Focused on or Incorporating Interoperable Communications

  - 5.8.5.1 Create and implement an Education and Outreach Plan in support of Interoperable Communications

Emergency responders employ common planning and operational protocols to effectively use their resources and personnel.

OBJECTIVE 3

Objective 3

- Initiative 3.1: Standardize and implement common operational protocols and procedures. A national adoption of plain-language radio practices and uniform common channel naming, along with the programming and use of existing national interoperability channels, will allow agencies across all disciplines to effectively share information on demand and in real time. Using common operational protocols and procedures avoids the confusion that the use of disparate coded language systems and various tactical interoperability frequencies can create. Use of the existing nationwide interoperability channels with common naming will immediately address interoperability requirements for agencies operating in the same frequency band.

Objective 3, cont.

- Milestone 3.1.6: Within 18 months, DHS develops training and technical assistance programs for the National Interoperability Field Operations Guide (NIFOG); programs an appropriate set of frequency / band-specific nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios; and preprograms an appropriate set of frequency / band-specific nationwide interoperability channels into emergency response radios that are manufactured or purchased through Federal funding as a standard requirement. (p. 22)

Note: Milestones in this area refer to the programming of an "appropriate set" of interoperability channels recognizing that most radios used by emergency responders do not have the capacity to hold all of the national interoperability channels in addition to their required operational channels. Some radio channels are discipline-specific and are inappropriate to program in radios of other disciplines.

Objective 3, cont.

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into SOPs.	None	PSIC Office SIEC PSCC	2011	Complete
Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios.	Many radios lack programming of nationwide interoperability channels; this programming is being encouraged by our Statewide Interoperable Channel Plan which includes these national channels.	Regional Partners	2011	In Progress
Incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into training and exercises.	Training and exercises are an ongoing activity of ADEM and local emergency managers. The use of nationwide interoperability channels are incorporated into training and exercises when appropriate.	Federal, State, local and tribal emergency response providers	2011	Complete

Objective 3, cont.

- Milestone 3.1.7: Within 24 months, all SCIPs reflect plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the ICS, and agencies incorporate the use of existing nationwide interoperability channels into SOPs, training, and exercises at the Federal, State, regional, local, and tribal levels. (p. 22)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Update SCIP to reflect plans to eliminate coded substitutions throughout the Incident Command System (ICS).	None	PSIC Office SIEC PSCC	2011	Complete

Objective 3, cont.

- Initiative 3.2: Implementation of the NIMS and the NRF across all levels of government. Emergency response agencies across all levels of government should adopt and implement national-level policies and guidance to ensure a common approach to incident management and communications support. Implementation of these policies will establish clearly defined communications roles and responsibilities and enable integration of all communications elements as the ICS structure expands from the incident level to the national level.

Objective 3, cont.

- Milestone 3.2.1: Within 12 months, all Federal, State, local, and tribal emergency response providers within UASI jurisdictions have implemented the Communications and Information Management section of the NIMS. (p.22)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
All Federal, State, local and tribal emergency response providers within UASI jurisdictions implement the Communications and Information Management section of the National Incident Management System (NIMS).	None	Federal, State, local and tribe emergency response providers	2007	Complete

Objective 3, cont.

- Relevant SCIP Initiatives:

  - 5.8.1.1 Expand & Implement Interoperable Communications Governance Model & Plan

  - 5.8.2.1 Establish a Policies, Standards, Procedures (PSP) Framework and implement PSPs, including SOPs, for statewide interoperable communication solutions.

  - 5.8.4.1 Develop & Implement a Training Plan to Address Interoperable Communications

  - 5.8.4.2 Develop & Implement a Strategy for Exercises Focused on or Incorporating Interoperable Communications

The Nation has integrated preparedness, mitigation, response, and recovery capabilities to communicate during significant events.

OBJECTIVE 7

Objective 7

- Initiative 7.2: Implement disaster communications planning and preparedness activities. Identifying critical communications vulnerabilities and developing mitigation strategies is important for all agencies with operational responsibilities during major events. Agencies should evaluate the readiness posture of communications centers (e.g., Public Safety Answering Points [PSAP]) and emergency response and commercial networks that may be vulnerable to weather damage, flooding, and man-made disasters. The vulnerabilities identified should be a primary focus of disaster planning and preparedness activities. System planning activities should account for the availability of alternative and backup communications solutions and redundant pathways (i.e., provided by different vendors) to support communications if primary capabilities become unavailable.

Objective 7, cont.

- Milestone 7.2.4: Within 24 months, complete disaster communications training and exercises for all 56 States and Territories. (p. 36)

- Milestone 7.2.5: Within 24 months, all Federal, State, local, and tribal agencies in UASIs have defined alternate/backup capabilities in emergency communications plans. (p. 37)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Define alternate/backup capabilities in emergency communications plans.	None	PSIC Office Regional Partners	2011	Complete
Complete disaster communications training and exercises.	Disaster communications training and exercise is an ongoing activity of ADEM and local emergency managers	ADEM	2011	Complete

Objective 7, cont.

- Relevant SCIP Initiatives:

  - 5.8.1.1 Expand & Implement Interoperable Communications Governance Model & Plan
    - » Objective 2) Develop TICPs and expand the utilization of CASM

  - 5.8.3.4 Sustain the State Strategic Technology Reserve (STR)

  - 5.8.4.1 Develop & Implement a Training Plan to Address Interoperable Communications

  - 5.8.4.2 Develop & Implement a Strategy for Exercises Focused on or Incorporating Interoperable Communications

Summary of Arizona's Progress

- Nine Initiatives Completed, Two Initiatives Still In Progress:

  - *Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level.* (Milestone 1.3.2)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Tactical planning among Federal, State, local, and tribal governments occurs at the regional interstate level.	Need to continue to formalize and manage plans and assets	Regional Partners PSIC Office	2013	In progress

  - *Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios.* (Milestone 3.1.6)

Initiative	Gap	Owner	NECP Milestone	Status
Program nationwide interoperability channels into all existing emergency responder radios.	Many radios lack programming of nationwide interoperability channels	Regional Partners	2011	In progress

Planning, Coordination and Governance

- Strategic and Tactical Planning is occurring at multiple levels, though much more needs to occur. Examples include:
  - Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI)
    - » Phoenix UASI
    - » Tucson UASI
  - Regional Systems
    - » Regional Wireless Cooperative (RWC)
    - » TOPAZ Regional Wireless Cooperative (TRWC)
    - » Pima County Wireless Integrated Network (PC-WIN)
    - » Yuma Regional Communications System (YRCS)
  - County-wide
    - » Pinal Radio Communications Consortium
  - AZDOHS Regional Advisory Councils (RAC)
  - Southwest Border Communications Working Group
  - FEMA Region IX Regional Emergency Communications Working Group
  - OEC Region IX SWIC Working Group

TICP Development

County	TICP Completed
Apache	To be developed 2012/2013
Cochise	Sep-11
Coconino	Apr-12
Gila	Scheduled for 2013
Graham	Scheduled for 2013
Greenlee	Scheduled for 2013
La Paz	Anticipated completion 2012
Central AZ Region	Apr-12
Mohave	May-11
Navajo	To be developed 2012/2013
Pima	Mar-10 – To be revised Dec-12
Pinal	Mar-11
Santa Cruz	To be developed 2012/2013
Yavapai	Scheduled for 2013
Yuma	October 2009 – Update: August 22 2012

Programming of nationwide interoperability channels

- The Arizona Interoperable Channels Plan (ICP) and Priority Programming Guide were last updated in January 2012.

- The Plan integrated Arizona's interoperable channels (AIRS) with a portion of the national interoperable channels (NIFOG) and standardized the naming conventions in accordance with NPSTC guidelines.

- The plan has now stabilized after a series of updates to respond to external changes, state and local feedback and correcting inaccuracies in the document.

- The Plan is intended to increase interoperable communications throughout the state in the VHF, UHF, 700 and 800 MHz bands.

- It is suggested the each agency incorporate these channels into their channel plan the next time their radios are programmed, but no later than the narrowbanding deadline of January 1, 2013.

Statewide Adoption

- Our Outreach Plan provides resources for educating stakeholders on the importance of the Interoperable Channels Plan.

- Two major influences have helped move use of the Channels Plan forward to date:

  - <u>Narrowbanding</u> – with the required reprogramming, many jurisdictions planned to include the Interoperable Channels Plan

  - <u>NECP Goal 2</u> - planning, events, observations and recommendations encouraged use of the Plan; After action reports – recommended that 10 counties start to use and 5 counties continue to use the Interoperable Channels

- Currently 5 TICPs recommend the programming/use of the Interoperable Channels Plan. As TICPs are developed, we encourage use of the Channels Plan.

State Agency Adoption

- State Agency IT Project Oversight – Any IT project over $25,000 is subject to review and approval by ADOA-ASET and the State CIO

    State CIO, Aaron Sandeen also serves as Chair of the Public Safety Communications Advisory Commission (PSCC).

- In order to encourage State Agency adoption of the Plan, the following statement has been incorporated as a condition of approval of any LMR subscriber gear:

    As part of its final deployment plan, in order to standardize and increase interoperable communications throughout the state, each agency must ensure that new and previously acquired subscriber units are programmed in accordance with Arizona's Statewide Interoperable Channel Plan – Priority Programming Guides.

- All State Agency Project Investment Justification (PIJ) approvals for narrowbanding in 2012 have included this condition.

Moving Forward

- Continue to support development of Strategic Communications Plans (SCMPs) and regional governance structures.

- Continue to support development of TICPs (including incorporation of the Channels Plan), and annually review and update their TICPs once developed.

- Encourage the use of the ICP during exercises and COML training

- Survey of interested parties - to determine status, intentions and impediments

- Encourage associations (through key leadership) to promote the programming and use of the Interoperable Channels Plan
  - APCO/NENA
  - Arizona Association of Chiefs of Police
  - Arizona Fire Chiefs Association
  - Arizona Ambulance Association
  - Arizona Fire District Association